

New permanent Home Affordable Modification Program modifications have averaged around 29,000 per month over the last six months of 2010.

This program saves homeowners on average 527 dollars per month.

If this bill is passed it would deny modification loans to more than a half million homeowners at risk of foreclosure.

I encourage my colleagues to stand up for homeownership in your districts and vote against this irresponsible bill.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. SUSAN C. PARKS, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2011

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March.

Today, I pay tribute to Dr. Susan C. Parks. As an educator and current Superintendent of the San Gabriel Unified School District, Susan has assisted in educating hundreds of students in the 29th Congressional District. A native Angelino, she spent her early years in Los Angeles City schools, where she proved herself to be a quick learner. Early on, Susan realized that many people held inherent beliefs that girls could not accomplish certain feats simply because they were girls. Determined to prove them wrong, Susan applied herself throughout high school and, as a result, received numerous scholarship offers. Thereafter, Dr. Parks decided to attend the University of Southern California (USC), where she was named a Trustee Scholar.

At USC, Susan Parks witnessed the struggle of the civil rights movement, encouraging her desire to promote peace throughout the world. After the Watts riots, Susan volunteered to help a pre-school recover and found that she had the potential to change the world by teaching young children. After graduating from USC Magna Cum Laude, she began teaching in Los Angeles where she strived to one day become a principal and eventually superintendent. She became the principal at Walnut Grove Elementary School and, after the passage of Proposition 13, she provided leadership to begin Hollow Hills Elementary School, a magnet school that achieved tremendous success. Her experience proved invaluable as she went on to hold positions as a Deputy Superintendent in Simi Valley, the Superintendent of Schools in the Baldwin Park Unified School District, and, in 2006, as the Superintendent of the San Gabriel Unified School District.

Today, Dr. Parks continues to work tirelessly for the students in San Gabriel schools and has taken large steps to give students in the 29th Congressional District the same opportunities for a superb education that she has enjoyed. She and her husband, Gary Parks, have three children and six grandchildren.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Dr. Susan C. Parks, for her service to the community and to our nation's children.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION'S COMMUNITY APPRECIATION AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the Prince William Ministerial Association's Community Appreciation Awards.

The Prince William Ministerial Association brings together church communities across ethnic, social and sectarian boundaries to celebrate their common faith and promote fellowship and action in the Prince William community. In keeping with that mission, the Association is awarding the First Annual Community Appreciation Awards to individuals who have made significant contributions to the areas of education, public safety and community activism in Prince William County.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names and accomplishments of the recipients of the Prince William Ministerial Association's Community Appreciation Awards.

Police Officer of the Year: Master Police Officer John Lavelly (Ret.) served 24 years in the Prince William County Police Department, including 13 years as a School Resource Officer.

Edward Kelly Teacher of the Year: Paulette Jones has taught at Gar-Field High School for 20 years and has dedicated her time to creating and sustaining a program that helps students perform community-based service projects and engage in self esteem-building activities.

Sheriff's Deputy of the Year: Deputy Thomas C. "T.C." Williams is being recognized for his service to the citizens of Prince William County and his ability to set a positive example for the community's troubled youth.

Firefighter of the Year: Deputy David Wood has served as a volunteer firefighter in Prince William County since April 26, 1976, and is an active member of the Coles District Volunteer Fire Department in his current capacity as Deputy Fire Chief.

Community Volunteer of the Year: Ernestine S. Jenkins is a dedicated community activist. She serves as the 1st Vice President of the Dale City Civic Association, Chairman of the Dale City 4th of July Parade Committee, Education Co-Chairman of the Bel Air Woman's Club; life member and Past President of VFW Post 1503 Ladies Auxiliary; charter member of Disabled American Veterans Chapter 48; Sun Shine Chairman of the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department; life member of American Legion Post 364 Ladies Auxiliary; Vice Chairman for Project Mend-A-House; and a member of the Finance Committee for Bethel United Methodist Church.

Vernon Williams, Jr. Young Person of the Year: Steven Blakely is a senior at Osbourn Park High School and captain of his school's swim team. Mr. Blakely created the "Foster Care Children's Gift Fund" to help the Department of Social Services purchase Christmas presents for foster children. During the past four years, the program has raised \$55,000 to help children in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the recipients of the Prince William Ministerial Association's Community Appreciation Awards. I extend my personal appreciation to the recipients for their contributions to effect positive change in our community.

INTRODUCTION OF BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION TO GRANT HOLOCAUST RAIL VICTIMS JUSTICE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation along with my colleagues Representatives ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, JERROLD NADLER, TED DEUTCH, LUIS GUTIERREZ, MAURICE HINCHEY, ALLEN WEST, GARY ACKERMAN, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ that will finally grant holocaust rail victims justice in their lifetimes.

During World War II, more than 75,000 Jews and other "undesirables" were transported from France to Nazi death camps aboard trains operated by the Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français ("SNCF"). Among those transported to death camps on SNCF trains were American airmen shot down over France. SNCF operated the trains as a commercial venture and were paid per head, per kilometer to deliver thousands to their ultimate deaths.

In the 66 years since the end of World War II, SNCF has never made restitution or reparations to its victims, and recently went so far as to tell a member of the California Assembly that "SNCF will never pay the survivors anything" and that the company "would rather not do business in California" than pay reparations.

Hundreds of known survivors and family members of those who have perished live in the United States today—although the number of living survivors is rapidly growing smaller—and litigation seeking to hold SNCF accountable for its actions during World War II has been ongoing for over ten years. SNCF has unfortunately thus far succeeded in cloaking itself in the veil of foreign sovereign immunity and thus evaded jurisdiction in United States courts.

This legislation would simply preclude, in this one limited instance, the defense of foreign sovereign immunity from being raised. As the facts make clear, this is not the type of situation foreign sovereign immunity was intended to cover.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation that would finally hold SNCF accountable for its wartime actions and provide survivors with what is likely their last opportunity for justice in their lifetimes.